



WOMEN NEWS

"...Women's advancement has achieved a certain momentum ... it will also continue to exist as a force to be reckoned with. ..."

Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women
(paragraph 22)

No. 34, January 1990

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS FORTY-FOURTH SESSION ADOPTS EIGHT RESOLUTIONS ON WOMEN

Women's issues, as indicated in *Women News* No. 31, were discussed in the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee of the General Assembly from 27 October to 1 November 1989. On 21 November, the Committee approved without a vote seven draft resolutions that were formally adopted by the General Assembly on 8 December. A draft resolution on the integration of women in development that had been approved by the Second Committee, was adopted by the Assembly on 19 December 1989.

During the debate in the Third Committee, 61 interventions were made by representatives of Member States including 4 on behalf of groups of countries. The general

thrust of the interventions was for the most part towards intensifying the role of women in development and countering the negative effects of the economic crisis on the status of women. Many delegations confirmed their countries' commitment to the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, and several expressed concern at the reduced pace of implementation and, in that connection, even dismay at the status of women within the United Nations Secretariat. The necessity of securing political and economic conditions as elements conducive to the advancement of women was stressed by some delegations, and others reiterated the need to include more women in decision-making.

The importance of establishing and strengthening national machinery was underscored in connection with both the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies and the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas.

Integration of women in development

The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to distribute the 1989 *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development* to national machinery for the advancement of women, ministries concerned with economic policy and universities, and invited Governments, when designing national policies for development, adjustment and economic reform, to take into account the recommendations contained in the survey. Furthermore, the Assembly requested that the next update of the survey should be presented at its forty-ninth session (1994) and should address the impact on women of the prevailing economic conditions in developing countries and identify obstacles to women's economic role in key areas of development and women's par-

General Assembly resolutions on women

44/60	International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women
44/73	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
44/74	United Nations Development Fund for Women
44/75	Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat
44/76	Elderly women
44/77	Implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women
44/78	Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas
44/171	Integration of women in development

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ticipation in economic and political decision-making. It should also contain proposals for national, regional and international action to enhance the role of women as development agents and beneficiaries.

In continuing to develop gender-disaggregated data and indicators concerning the role of women in development, particular attention should be given to economic statistics that take into account the remunerated and unremunerated contribution of women to development; the informal sector should be included in the new systems of national accounts so as to reflect women's activities adequately; and studies and documents produced by the United Nations system should contain such data.

Implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women

The General Assembly, recognizing the advancement of women as one of the priorities of the Organization for the biennium 1990-1991 and again emphasizing the priority of the implementation, monitoring, review and appraisal of the Forward-looking Strategies, reaffirmed the urgent need for the Forward-looking Strategies to be translated immediately into concrete action by Governments as well as by the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

The Assembly called upon Member States to give priority to policies and programmes relating to the subtheme "Employment, health and education", in particu-

lar to literacy, for the empowerment of women, especially those in the rural areas, to meet their own needs through self-reliance and the mobilization of indigenous resources, as well as to issues relating to the role of women in economic and political decision-making, population, environment and information. The Commission on the Status of Women was also called upon to promote the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies to the year 2000 based on the goals of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace and the subtheme "Employment, health and education".

The convening in 1991 of a high-level interregional consultation on women in public life was endorsed by the Assembly, which also requested the Commission on the Status of Women to consider at its session in 1990 the question of holding a world conference on women in 1995.

Elderly women

The Assembly recommended that the United Nations and its specialized agencies should take the lead in recognizing the important contributions and the potential of older women to participate in and shape the future of their societies and appealed to the United Nations system to pay due attention to the importance of the role of elderly women as participants in political, economic, social and cultural development.

Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/38, by which the Commission on the Status of Women recommended the convening of a seminar on the current and projected situation of women

as they age, was reaffirmed. The results of the seminar should be reported to the Commission at its 1992 meeting, which will also mark the tenth anniversary of the International Plan of Action on Aging.

Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas

Noting with satisfaction the results of the International Seminar on Women and Rural Development, held at Vienna from 22 to 26 May 1989 (see *Women News* No. 29), the General Assembly called upon Member States to make use of the main conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar and to endeavour to reflect them, as appropriate, in national development strategies.

Special attention should be paid to (a) setting up or strengthening women's national machinery in order to ensure effective execution, monitoring and evaluation of national strategies in the field of rural development, in particular to strengthen their liaison with agricultural rural development institutions, (b) identifying and formulating more comprehensive priority development projects aimed at improving the situation of rural women and integrating them into national development plans at all levels; and (c) taking measures designed to give rural women broader access to material and financial resources, i.e. land, credit and loans, to promote the establishment and strengthening of rural women's associations and to encourage the development of women's co-operatives and other small enterprises.

The Assembly further requested the organizations and

**EXTENDED SESSION OF COMMISSION
ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Vienna, 26 February-9 March 1990**

funds of the United Nations system, donor organizations and countries to promote the realization of programmes and projects aimed at the improvement of the situation of rural women, and to provide, on request, training opportunities for national machinery in order to increase its effectiveness.

**TENTH ANNIVERSARY
Convention on the Elimination
of All Forms of Discrimination
Against Women**

A ceremony was held at the Vienna International Centre on 18 December 1989 to mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women by the General Assembly.

On this occasion, a book on the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (Sales publication No. E.89.IV.4) was launched by the Division for the Advancement of Women and Austria's second periodic report to the Committee was presented by Ms. Johanna Dohnal, Secretary of State for Women's Affairs. To dramatize the practical implications of the Convention, a study on Women in Decision-making for Peace: case study of Sweden (Sales publication No. E.89.IV.7), the first in a series of national case studies, was also presented by H.E. Ms. Maj Britt Theorin M.P., Chairperson of the Swedish Commission on Disarmament and head of the Swedish delegation to the United Nations Committee on Disarmament.

As the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women is due for the first formal review and appraisal five years after the Nairobi world confer-

ence, and as it has been decided not to hold a world conference for this purpose, the thirty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women will be of extended duration.

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
3. Programming and co-ordination matters related to the United Nations and the United Nations system
4. Priority themes:
Equality: Equality in political participation and decision-making
Development: Negative effects of the international economic situation on the improvement of the status of women
Peace: Women in areas affected by armed conflicts, foreign intervention, alien and colonial domination, foreign occupation and threats to peace
5. Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women:
 - (a) Progress at the national level;
 - (b) Progress at the regional level;
 - (c) Progress at the international level;
 - (d) Conclusions and recommendations.
6. Provisional agenda for the thirty-fifth session of the commission
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirty-fourth session.

Documentation

- E/CN.6/1990/1
Annotated agenda
E/CN.6/1990/2
Report of the Secretary-General on equality in political participation and decision-making
E/CN.6/1990/3
Report of the Secretary-General on negative effects of the international economic situation on the improvement of the status of women
E/CN.6/1990/4
Report of the Secretary-General on women in areas affected by armed conflicts, foreign intervention, alien and colonial domination, foreign occupation and threats to peace
E/CN.6/1990/5
Report of the Secretary-General on progress at the national, regional and international levels in implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women
E/CN.6/1990/6
Report of the Secretary-General on draft recommendations and conclusions arising from the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women
E/CN.6/1990/7
Report of the Secretary-General on monitoring the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women regarding women and children in Namibia

E/CN.6/1990/9

Report of the Secretary-General on monitoring the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women regarding women and children living under *apartheid* in South Africa and Namibia

E/CN.6/1990/10

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of Palestinian women and children living inside and outside the occupied territories

**Calendar of meetings:
March - June**

March

UNESCO: Workshop on Economic Reporting for Asian Women Journalists, Manila, 5-9 March

UNICEF: Central American Conference on female poets and writers, Nicaragua, 6-8 March

Inter-Agency Meeting on Women, 15th meeting, Vienna, 12-13 March

UNICEF: Evaluation of the achievements and constraints of the 1984 policy on peasant women in agricultural development, Colombia, 21-24 March

UNICEF: South Asia Conference on safe motherhood, Lahore, 24-28 March

United Nations Population Division: International Migration Policies and the Status of Female Migrants, San Miniato, Italy, 26-31 March

ILO: Women and work, Port Louis, Mauritius

April

ESCAP: South Asian sub-regional workshop on the technical processing of information concerning women in development, Bangkok, 2 weeks in April

FAO: Consultative Inter-Agency Meeting on the Collection and Analysis of Statistical Data on Women in Agriculture

ECLAC: Tenth Meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, Santiago

UNICEF: National seminar on the situation of women in Haiti, Haiti

UNICEF: Workshop on legislation, women and children, Honduras

May

United Nations Research Institute for Social Development: Sustainable Development through People's Participation in Resource Management (agenda item on Women and resource Management). Geneva, 7-9 May

UNESCO: Regional non-governmental organization meeting on changing family patterns and gender roles in Asia, New Delhi, 7-10 May

ILO: Training course on policies and strategies for promoting entrepreneurship among women, Turin, 7 May-15 June

ESCAP: Meeting to evaluate guidelines on integrating women's concerns in development planning, Bangkok, three days in May

UNIDO: Industrial Development Board (agenda item on integration of women into industrial development), Vienna, 28 May-1 June

UNFPA: Seminar on Population Programmes and Women, Togo, 28 May-1 June

ILO: Women's access to land, Dakar

ILO: Symposium on promotion of equality for women workers, Asia/Pacific

ITC/ESCAP: Subregional Workshop for Women Executives on Export Marketing, Nepal, May/June

UNICEF: Functional education for girls and women: improving the status and situation of girls and women through learning, China

UNICEF: Meeting on policies and methodologies to work with indigenous women, Mexico

UNICEF: Eastern and Southern Africa workshop on women and credit, May/June

June

Division for the Advancement of Women: Expert Group Meeting on AIDS issues related to women, Vienna, 11-15 June

UNIDO: African Regional Expert Group Meeting on Women in Agro-Industries, United Republic of Tanzania, early June

ILO: Training course on design of training programmes to promote women's role in the development process, Turin, 4 June-10 August

UNICEF: Workshop on analysis of research on intra-family violence, Nicaragua

UNESCO: Museums - Some Women's Dimensions, Copenhagen, third week in June

ESCWA: Workshop on the Third Choice for Women, Cairo or Amman, second quarter